



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN '98: CA REPUBLICAN PARTY DODGES A BULLET IN BATTLE OVER SUPREME COURT JUDGES.

Editor's note: When it came time to vote on whether to support or oppose reconfirmation for four CA Supreme Court jurists, there *weren't* enough CA Republican Party delegates for a quorum. And following the conclusion of their convention, the CRP's Executive Board decided **not** to take a position. Here's what happened at the Sept. 25-27 CRP convention in Long Beach...

...If there was a hot topic which should have received more attention at this gathering, it was this battle over the reconfirmation of Chief Justice Ron George and Associates Justice Ming Chin. Both of these Wilson-appointed jurists are under fire from hardline conservatives because of their vote to overturn CA's parental consent law dealing with abortions for minors. Anti-George/Chin political fliers such as *Stop The Davis Judges - Vote NO on George & Chin* were all over the place...

...Knowing months in advance that there would be a huge battle --- and realizing that the last thing Calif. Republicans needed was another bloody fight over *abortion*, CRP Chair Mike Schroeder named State Sen. Ray Haynes to chair a 17-member Judicial Evaluation Cmt. to recommend a position for the CRP. *Conventional wisdom* was that with anti-abortion zealot Haynes in charge, the JEC would recommend against George & Chin...

...But when the full committee report was released, the JEC voted **to support** George, Chin and the other Wilson appointee, Associate Justice Janice Brown. What came as somewhat of a shock was the recommendation that the CRP **oppose** the high court's senior member, Associate Justice Stanley Mosk, an appointee of Gov. Pat Brown. In addition to opposing Mosk, the JEC

also voted to **oppose** reconfirmation for Justices Earl Johnson & Vaino Spencer of the 2nd Appeals Court; and Justice Edward Wallin of the 4th Appeals Court - all appointees of Gov. Jerry Brown. Haynes and 5 other JEC members issued a minority report which recommended **against** George, Chin and Mosk...

...Why target Mosk, who wrote the opinion upholding the parental consent law? It all goes back to 1986 when former CA Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird and two other Jerry Brown-appointed associate justices were ousted. Mosk also was up for reconfirmation in '86 and while his record was almost as bad in overturning death penalty cases, the anti-Bird committee had been told Mosk would retire. He was about 74 back then. When he didn't retire, the anti-Bird committee felt betrayed. So this current JEC stance to oppose Mosk is **payback** - but it doesn't mean anything because the CRP isn't getting involved...

...FYI: Had the CRP's Executive Board adopted the JEC's full report (targeting Mosk), sources say that **huge pressure** would have been put on CA Demo Party Chair Art Torres to retaliate. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: LUNGREN & FONG TAKE CENTER STAGE AT CA REPUBLICAN PARTY CONVENTION.

Editor's note: **Calpeek** went to Long Beach Sept. 26th to check the *political health* of Calif. Republican Party delegates attending their semi-annual CRP convention. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...Temperature 103 and rising, pulse very rapid. Symptoms point to *hillbillyclintonitis*, caused by eating too much raw meat being tossed out by GOP hardliners on the U.S. House Judiciary Cmt. Delegates to this Fall '98 convention got their fill of Clinton bashing from CRP Chair Mike Schroeder and AG Dan Lungren, the

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GOP's gubernatorial candidate, who in his keynote luncheon speech, linked Clinton to his Demo rival, Lt. Gov. Gray Davis. And there's every indication that the CRP delegates loved it...

...The only GOP candidate urging restraint was U.S. Senate candidate Matt Fong, who warned delegates there could be a *backlash* if GOP House members go too far and are viewed by voters as being unfair to Pres. Bill Clinton. And in fact another reporter covering the CRP convention told **Calpeek** that he's beginning to see signs of an *energized Demo voter base*. If the backlash occurs, the likely impact would be on U.S. House contests. Most polls (so far) indicates voters are disgusted with The President's sexual conduct, but don't want him impeached...

● The Lungren Campaign. After being hammered by Davis in the Sept. 23rd debate, Lungren went back to basics: talking about crime and showing off his latest tv ad: a spot featuring **3 Strikes** author Mike Reynolds, who bashed Davis for not supporting 3 Strikes. Wrong! Davis supported a *different version* of 3 Strikes, the one sponsored by the Calif. District Attorneys Assn. and the CA Sheriff's Assn...

...The entire tone Lungren's campaign has shifted to a more negative, abressive style, whereas earlier it was more upbeat and positive. Perhaps that's because the campaign knows what insiders are now realizing: *that Lungren is in trouble*. Lungren's ad about character went nowhere and his response to Davis' attack on abortion didn't work either. Tracking polls show Davis with leads ranging from 8 to 14 points. In the **45th CD** (Orange Co.), a recent poll showed Lungren in front of Davis by only 6 points --- that's low considering this is U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher's district. FYI: Lungren's statement during the debate *linking* major law enforcement groups to Latrell Sprewell was a huge mistake. Sources think Lungren's statement could cost him 150,000 votes...

● The Fong Campaign. The CA Treasurer got some good press at this CRP gathering. And the latest Mason-Dixon poll shows the race with U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D) dead even: **43%** each, with **14%** undecided. The poll was taken Sept. 14-16, among 812 likely voters. Boxer has now begun airing an ad blasting Fong as "The gun lobby's favorite candidate for the

Senate." Insiders believe that Boxer's only chance in beating Fong is to drive up his negatives. FYI: at Nelson Communication's *Flacks & Hacks* get-together for political junkies, PR types and reporters, a straw poll predicted a Fong win in November...

● The Initiatives. The only big showing was YES and NO on **Prop. 5**. Both sides in the Indian Gaming war were there in force, but it seems there was *more sympathy* for the NO side among delegates. And had there been a quorum, our sources think NO on 5 would have won the endorsement. Even the CRP's Executive Board stayed away from 5, deciding to take no position. Best one liner from a delegate: *Given all the money both sides are spending, the CRP should have conducted a silent auction for the endorsement...*

...The CRP Executive Cmt., meeting after the convention, endorsed YES on 1 & 3 and NO on 9. The CRP had endorsed YES on 8 and NO on 10 back in February. The CRP has no position on 2, 5, 6 & 7 and is NO on 4. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE CONTESTS
Editor's note: This week **Calpeek** focuses on some key Coastal districts in L.A., Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties...

☒ **53rd AD** - This is a *must defend* seat for the Demos. This swing AD in L.A.'s South Bay area is now represented by Debra Bowen(D), who should be an easy winner in her bid to move up to the State Senate in the **28th SD**. The Demos feel comfortable with popular Torrance Councilman George Nakano, who has a solid base of support. He faces educational institute director Bill Eggers, who may be too conservative for this swing AD. A David Binder poll taken for Nakano in late August among 1,000 likely voters has Nakano leading **42%** to **29%** for Eggers. Right now this race *leans* Demo --- and we expect both sides to spend heavily...

☒ **54th AD** - This is another swing AD in the Long Beach/So. Bay area of L.A. Co. Only this time it's the GOP who *must defend*. The seat is currently held by moderate Steve Kuykendall(R-Palos Verdes), who is leaving to face Demo Janice Hahn for the **36th CD** in one of the hottest U.S. House battles in Calif. The 54th AD GOP nominee is Julie Alban, a 32-year Long Beach

deputy city prosecutor, who won a tough 3-way primary. Alban is confined to a wheelchair, victim of a shooting by her ex-boyfriend. She's bright, but has been ducking debates with her Demo rival, Long Beach Councilman Alan Lowenthal, who has been endorsed by all of the key public safety groups, members of his city council and LB Mayor Beverly O'Neill. In registration, the 54th AD leans GOP, but this race could go in either direction. In '96, Demo Gerry Schipske came within 1% of pulling an upset. Both side will pump big bucks into this battle. A **toss up** for now...

☒ **56th AD** - This is another critical AD up for grabs. Incumbent Sally Havice is probably the 2nd most endangered Demo facing reelection. Demos will spend heavily to *defend* against former Assemblyman Phil Hawkins, who left this AD to run for the State Senate in '96. This AD has a Demo registration edge (50.67% vs. 34.44%), but tends to vote conservative. In the primary, with just Havice, Hawkins and a Libertarian candidate, Havice got **49.3%** vs. **47.4%** for Hawkins. A key local issue in this battle deals with open meetings at Downey Community Hospital. Hawkins carried a bill to exempt the hospital from the open meeting law and there's a big flap - with Hawkins on the wrong side. Probably leans toward Havice, but we'll put it in the **toss up** category for now...

☒ **35th AD** - This open seat now represented by GOPer Brooks Firestone of Santa Barbara is another *must defend* for the Assembly Republicans. In Demo Hannah-Beth Jackson, GOP actor/businessman Chris Mitchum faces a former Deputy DA who is a solid fundraiser with lots of support from various law & order groups in the area. In addition, Hannah-Beth is running with U.S. Rep. Lois Capps(D) and State Sen. Jack O'Connell(D), two of the area's most popular elected Demos. Both are favored Nov. 3rd. In the primary, Mitchum ran to the *right* of his opponents and is now trying to move back to the center. NARAL and Planned Parenthood have tagged Mitchum as unacceptable. And he's pro-GUN. Mitchum's best endorsement is from Firestone, but most sources think this is Jackson's race to win or lose. **Leans** Demo...

☒ **37th AD** - This seat should be considered "safe GOP turf," but Assembly staffer Tony Strickland, cut from the same hardline conservative mold as his boss Tom McClintock(R), could be in trouble because

Reform Party candidate Michael Farris is pulling **6%** in a poll taken for Demo Roz McGrath, a 51-year-old teacher who comes from a well-known Ventura Co. family. In the survey by Evans/McDonough Co., 400 likely voters (Sept. 14-15), McGrath gets **31%**, while the better known Strickland gets **30%**. **Leans GOP**, but it's on our *watch list*. Stay tuned...

FULL METAL JACKET: GUNS AND POLITICS IN 1998.
Editor's note: The Sept. 29th front page headline in the *L.A. Times* was about Gov. Pete Wilson's veto of 3 gun bills. But he also signed 5 bills. You'll be hearing more about some of these new laws in the weeks ahead. Here's our analysis. ☺ = signed/ ☹* = vetoed:

☺ **AB 48** by Rod Wright(D-L.A.) is an NRA sponsored bill requiring owners of SKS Rifles to turn them in by 2000 or face felony charges. The SKS is the weapon AG Dan Lungren ruled was *not* an assault weapon and then he flip-flopped. Wilson axed the money from this bill for the State to *buy-back* these weapons, which means this bill is a *confiscation law*, something that the NRA won't be able to explain and neither will Wilson...

☺ **SB 591** by Sen. Ross Johnson(R-Irvine) repeals the sales tax on fees for background checks. A big win for the gun dealers...

☺ **SB 63** by Sen. Steve Peace(D-El Cajon) toughens background checks and enhances law enforcement's role in the handgun registration process...

☺ **AB 2011** by Bob Hertzberg(D-Van Nuys) requires the cops to go after illegal gun transfers...

☺ **AB 2022** by Rod Wright(D-L.A.) makes major changes to the process whereby pistol carry licenses are issued...

☹* **SB 1500** by Sen. Richard Polanco(D-L.A.) was the ban on Saturday Night Special handguns. Almost all of these cheap guns are made by 5 Southern Calif. firms (referred to as the *Ring of Fire*). From the standpoint of Handgun Control Inc., this was a bad veto, but there may be some relief. In August, Wilson signed **AB 2188** by Jack Scott(D-Pasadena). AB 2188 isn't a product safety bill, but it makes it unfeasible for the Saturday Night Special manufacturers to continue to make guns that do not meet the standards set forth in

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SB 1500. What's it mean? Some of these firms will go out of business and some will move to other States...

◆* SB 1550 by Sen. Tom Hayden(D-L.A.) required gun dealers to offer "trigger locks" to gun purchasers...

◆* AB 2560 by Don Perata(D-Oakland) was the bill which would have rewritten Calif.'s ban on assault weapons. Bad timing on this veto, especially for Lungren. The day Wilson vetoed this bill, Handgun Control Inc. attacked Lungren, noting the AG had illegally registered assault weapons used by registered owners or members of the same household in two murders. One case involved the murder of LAPD Officer Christy Hamilton...

...FYI: Why did Wilson use his veto power on some key gun bills? Wilson has *Potomac Fever* and given the role of conservatives and the gun lobby in the GOP presidential nominating process, Wilson must be careful in all his actions - even if it hurts other Calif. GOPers. Bottomline: Pete's for Pete! Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are few items, political and otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***Wilson Signs Early Primary Bill*** - Gov. Pete Wilson(R), probably looking down the road and seeing the benefit to him in 2000, has signed Sen. Jim Costa's SB 1999, shifting *all* future Calif. primary elections to March. So the next Calif. primary will be Mar. 7, 2000. It moves up the presidential nominating time table and obviously makes Calif. a key player in the process. But there are some Calif. GOPers who don't like this new law. They think it will hurt fundraising and recruitment of House and Legislative candidates...

■ ***CCPOA Endorses Davis*** - The CA Correctional Peace Officers Assn., representing 28,000 prison guards and correctional officers, has endorsed Demo Gray Davis for governor. This is a big plus for Davis because the CCPOA in past years usually has endorsed GOP candidates. The CCPOA also endorsed Demo Cruz Bustamante for LG; GOPer Curt Pringle for Treasurer; incumbent Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush(R); and GOPer Dave Stirling for AG. FYI: insiders tell **Calpeek** the impact of CCPOA's

endorsement is a tremendous fiscal shot in the arm for Gray Davis. In the *Sacto BEE* story about this endorsement, Novey indicated that the union would be a "real significant player in the governor's race." Insiders believe that Davis may be the direct and indirect beneficiary of at least \$2 million...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A very sad note: Former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley died of a heart attack Sept. 29th. He was 80. He was first elected in 1973 and served 5 terms. He ran for governor in 1982 & 1986, but will be remembered as L.A.'s 1st Black mayor who brought L.A. the 1984 Olympic Games. He'll be missed by his many friends. R.I.P...

● U.S. Rep. Buck McKeon has named community activist and former Lancaster school board member Lew Stults, 51, as his new field rep for the Antelope Valley...

● Patrick McCallum has opened The McCallum Group, a Sacto lobbying & consulting firm. McCallum had been the exec. director of the Faculty Assn. of CA Community Colleges for the past 17 years. The FACCC is looking for a replacement...

● Sandra Sternberg has been named Sr. VP, partner and general mgr. of Fleishman-Hillard's L.A. office...

● San Diego Councilwoman Barbara Warden has named Laura McDonald as her new chief of staff...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Oct. 5	Last day to register to vote for Nov. 3 election.
Oct. 8	Treasurer's debate, Bond Buyer's 8th annual Calif. Public Finance Conf., San Diego.
Oct. 12	Boxer vs. Fong debate, sponsored by KRON TV & S.F. Chronicle.
Oct. 12	AG's debate, sponsored by CA District Attorney Assn.'s (on KCET-TV).
Oct. 15	AG's debate - <i>Calif. Capitol Week</i> , KVIE-TV in Sacramento.
Oct. 16	Lt. Governor debate (Bustamante vs. Leslie), Century Cable studios, Santa Monica.
Oct. 23	Treasurer's debate, 9 a.m. on KQED-FM in San Francisco.
Nov 3.	CA General Election.